

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SUBJECT: UNDP, WORKING GROUP ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION:
FIRST SESSION

REF: A. USUN 2584 B. USUN A-972

WORKING GROUP COMPLETED WEEK LONG FIRST SESSION
JULY 20. ALL SEVEN CONFERENCE PAPERS BEING FORWARDED
DEPARTMENT UNDER SEPARATE COVERS. PRINCIPAL DOCUMENT IS
FINAL REPORT CURRENTLY BEING REVISED BY SECRETARIAT
(CONFERENCE PAPER NO. 7) COVERING: OFFICERS, AGENDA,
UNDP ADMINISTRATORS STATEMENT (BY PATEL), SUMMARY OF
GENERAL DEBATE, FRAME OF REFERENCE AS NEGOTIATED AT SESSION, AND ACTION REQUESTED FROM UNDP.
FOLLOWING POINTS OF SESSION MOST PERTINENT:

1. LEADERSHIP OF GROUP WAS INNER "DRAFTING GROUP" OF
INDIA (SANTHI) BRAZIL (COUTU), ARGENTINA, NIGERIA, FRG,
UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINED BY CHAIRMAN (UPPER VOLTA). INDIA AND BRAZIL
APPEARED TAKE INITIATIVE. ALL MEMBERS "INNER GROUP" AND
MOST MEMBERS W.G. FROM MORE "ADVANCED" LDC'S WHICH
OPENLY ADMIT THEIR INTEREST EXPANDING THEIR ROLE AND OUTPUTS

(EXPERTS TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, RESEARCH, ETC.)
TO LESSER DEVELOPED.

2. CONSENSUS OF UNDP REPS AND DELEGATES THAT W.G. REPRESENTED "IMPORTANT" NEW APPROACH. HOWEVER, GROUP LEADERSHIP TOOK CAUTIOUS EVEN "BALND" APPROACH, LIMITING FIRST SESSION LARGELY TO ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PLUS FOCUS ON BRIEF "TERMS OF REFERENCE" (SEE FINAL REPORT, CONF PAPER 7) PAPER FOR SUBSEQUENT WORK, AND ALSO AN EQUALLY BRIEF SET OF GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ("ACTION REQUESTED FROM UNDP" FINAL REPORT, PAPER 7) ADDRESSED TO UNDP SECRETARIAT TO KEEP IN MIND AS IT CONDUCTS AN INVENTORY ON EXISTING AND PROJECTED TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE LDC'S IN ALL ASPECTS INCLUDING THE INTER-REGIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PER THE GA AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION. THIS "MAJOR" RESULT OF SESSION.

3. IN ATTEMPT ASSURE MEANINGFUL INVENTORY, SECRETARIAT CHARGED GO BEYOND QUESTIONNAIRE TO FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS AND IF NECESSARY TO HIRING CONSULTANT(S). COMPLETED INVENTORY DUE END 1973 (PRIOR NEXT SESSION OF WORKING GROUP IN JANUARY 1974). WORKING GROUP LIMITED SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF SESSION OF ITEM VI, B, (1) OF AGENDA (SEE CONF PAPERS). THIS ITEM REFERS TO "FRAME OF REFERENCE" ONLY. FYI, PER ALBERTAL OF SECRETARIAT, UNDP WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY COMPLETING INVENTORY AND GETTING IT TRANSLATED ON TIME. UNDP MAY RESORT TO SAMPLING TECHNIQUE "TWENTY KEY COUNTRIES" AS NECESSARY SHORT CUT.

4. AFGHANISTAN MEMBER ONLY VIGOROUS MINORITY ACTIVIST. HE CHARGED SESSION WITH RESPONSIBILITY ADDRESS ADDITIONAL TWO SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF AGENDA, ITEM VI, B, (2) AND (3) COVERING RESPECTIVELY: "NATURE AND SCOPE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES," AND "OPERATIONAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS" AND GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO RLDC AND LAND-LOCKED. OTHERWISE UNCLASSIFIED

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WG SESSION WAS A WASTE TIME AND MONEY. WG, HOWEVER, LED BY CHAIRMAN, BACKED BY MOST DELEGATES OPPOSED. RATIONALE WAS INVENTORY NEEDED BEFORE OTHER ITEMS COULD BE PRODUCTIVELY STUDIED.

5. FUNDING IMPLICATIONS ON INPUTS EXPECTED FROM MEMBERS WORKING GROUP AND LDC'S NOT CLEAR, EITHER CONCERNING COSTS INVENTORY AND/OR ANY ACTION PROGRAM LIKELY EMERGE FINAL REPORT. PATEL, WHOSE VIEWS WELL RECEIVED BY SESSION (REF A), WARNED FUNDING IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION REQUIRED WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED, WITH EMPHASIS UPON SELF-HELP. BRAZIL IN GENERAL DEBATE INDICATED WILLINGNESS CONSIDER NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY INPUT WITH IMPRESSION LDC'S SHOULD

FUND BULK OF ACTIVITIES THEMSELVES. INDIA ALSO ADDRESSED FUNDING PROBLEM BUT FORM PERSEPECTIVE MORE DC SUPPORT. CONSENSUS WAS SUPPORT FOR EVENTUAL PROGRAM SHOULD BE ADDITIVE TO OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT CALL FOR SPECIAL FUNDS AND/OR MACHINERY. THIS MAJOR ISSUE FOR RESOLUTION SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS.

6. ONLY "OBSERVERS" MAKE SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTIONS DURING SESSION WERE REPS OF ECA AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WHOSE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS INCLUDED INFORMAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION. PAPER BY ECA PARTICULARLY WELL RECEIVED, WITH RESULT SESSION EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT DELEGATES OTHER COMMISSIONS NOT PRESENT AND SECRETARIAT INSTRUCTED INVITE OTHER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS PARTICIPATE FUTURE SESSIONS. PAPERS BY UNICEF AND IMCO ALSO WELL RECEIVED AS WERE ORAL REMARKS BY OAS AND IDB OBSERVERS.

7. ALL MEMBERS WG TOOK LOW-KEY, NON-CONTENTIOUS POSTURE TOWARDS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ARGENTINE (FLEMING) AND TO LESS DEGREE BRAZIL AND INDIA TOOK PAINS IN CORRIDORS TO REMIND US OBSERVERS ON THIS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. MOST MEMBERS OF WG LEAD BY INDIA AND GERMANY PUSHED HARD FOR MORE PARTICIPATION BY DC' S. GERMANY WAS ONLY DC AS MEMBER FIRST SESSION. OTHER DC'S PREVIOUSLY INVITED JOINING GROUP HAD DECLINED. U.S. OBSERVER TOLD BY ALBERTAL 23 JULY THAT BELGIUM WOULD PARTICIPATE AS FULL MEMBER NEXT SESSION, THAT OBSERVERS FROM UK, ITALY AND ROMANIA HAD TOLD HIM INFORMALLY THEIR GOVERMENTS MIGHT BE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERESTED BECOMING MEMBERS AND THAT HE HOPED CANADA WOULD RECONSIDER ITS PREVIOUS REFUSAL. HE MADE NO ATTEMPT FEEL OUT U.S. INTEREST JOINING GROUP NOR DID U.S. OBSERVER SOLICIT SAME.

8. NO OBSERVERS FROM FRANCE, NORWAY, CANADA, FINLAND WERE PRESENT AT FIRST SESSION WHILE ALL THOSE DC'S PRESENT (US, UK, NORDICS, USSR, ITALY) TOOK VERY LOW STANCE WITH NONE MAKING EITHER WRITTEN OR EVEN VERBAL INPUTS CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS. DC'S NON-ACTIVE PARTICIPATION STEMMED FROM WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE, FEAR WG BECOME ADDITIONAL PLATFORM FOR CRITICISM AND/OR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM DC'S . ALSO, MOJOR EMPHASIS IS INCREASE SELF-HELP, SELF-RELIANCE ON PART LDC'S THEMSELVES, WHO SHOULD HAVE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FORMULATE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES OF WG, WITH ASSITANCE THEY DESIRE UNDP SECRETARIAT. US OBSERVER BELIEVES AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST INDICATE, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, U.S. VIEWS INFORMALLY THROUGH SECRETARIAT AND THROUGH CONTACT VARIOUS WG MEMBERS. BELIEVE LITTLE IF ANYTHING BE GAINED BY PUSHING TO JOIN GROUP. WHILE IT CLEAR INDIA AND FRG WANT U.S. MEMBERSHIP WG BELIEVE BRAZIL,

SECRETARIAT AND OTHERS VERY UNDECIDED PERHAPS IN PART
BECAUSE THEN MIGHT ALSO HAVE TO INCLUDE USSR.

9. BELIEVE U.S. INTEREST WOULD LIKELY BE SERVED IF (A
VERY BIG IF) WG WERE ABLE DEVISE EFFICIENT, LOW COST
INSTRUMENTALITIES FOR INCREASING TC AMONG LDC'S AND
REGIONAL APPROACHES THEREFOR, WHICH WOULD MIRROR NEW INI-
TIATIVES IN PROCESS AID PARTICULARLY IN KEY MULTIPLIER
AREAS OF APPLIED RESEARCH, AND UPGRADING TRAINING CENTERS,
PLUS EXPANDED USE LDC'S SPECIALISTS.

10. OUTLINE REMAINING WORK WG AS FOLLOWS: SECOND
SESSION OF UP TO TWO WEEKS IN JAN AT UN/NY JAN 7-18)
TO REVIEW INVENTORY AND MOVE INTO SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS
OF AGENDA (ITEMS VI, B, 2, 3, AS ABOVE). FINAL SESSION
IN GENEVA APRIL 16-26 ON WEEK, TO COMPLETE FINAL REPORT
FOR UNDP GC JUNE 1974. MEMBERS WG PRESENTLY FORESEE
LITTLE IF ANY INVOLVEMENT BY THEM BETWEEN FORMAL SESSIONS.
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UNQTE ROGERS

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